

September 28, 2011

Biologist/author Thor Hanson talks on “Feathers”



Join biologist Thor Hanson, author of “[Feathers: The Evolution of a Natural Miracle](#),” for a discussion and book signing at the [Olympia Timberland Library](#) on Wednesday, October 5 from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. Books will be available for purchase. The program takes place after the library closes. Other library services will not be available.

Applying the research of paleontologists, ornithologists, biologists, engineers and art historians, Hanson addresses what feathers are, how they evolved and what they mean to us. Used to fly, protect, attract and adorn, feathers are an evolutionary marvel. Aerodynamic, insulating and beguiling, they date back from dinosaurs to Vegas performers.

Engineers call feathers the most efficient insulating material ever discovered and they are at the root of biology’s most enduring debate. They silence the flight of owls and keep penguins dry below the ice. They have decorated queens, jesters, and priests. And they have inked documents from the Constitution to the novels of Jane Austen.

Hanson is a conservation biologist, Switzer Environmental Fellow, and member of the Human Ecosystems Study Group. His first book, “[The Impenetrable Forest: My Gorilla Years in Uganda](#),” won the 2008 USA Book News Award for nature writing. Hanson lives with his wife and son on an island off the Washington coast, and plays upright bass with the San Juan Jazz Quintet. His website is <http://thorhanson.net>.

The Olympia Timberland Library is at 313 8th Avenue SE, Olympia. For more information, please call the library at (360) 352-0595 or go to www.TRL.org.